

P-20 Council Meeting

Wednesday, April 23, 2014

10:00am – 3:30pm

Westinghouse College Prep High School
3223 W. Franklin Blvd, Chicago, IL 60624

MINUTES

Chicago: James Applegate, Ron Bullock, Theresa Hawley, Kurt Hilgendorf, Erika Hunt, Janet Holt, Madelyn James, Joyce Karon, Melissa Mitchell, LaVonne Nelson (for Karen Hunter Anderson), John Rico, Jane Russell, Julie Smith, Audrey Soglin, Robin Steans, Deb Strauss, Miguel del Valle, Cathy Veal, Eric Zarnikow

I. Welcome from Chairman Miguel del Valle & Council Introductions

Chairman Miguel del Valle welcomed Council members and guests and thanked them for joining. He also thanked Westinghouse College Prep High School and Principal Janice Jackson for hosting the Council. He indicated that the Council was excited to be at George Westinghouse College Preparatory High School to learn more about the ways which schools across Illinois can better support early college credit and workforce readiness opportunities for students including the 1100 plus students served at Westinghouse.

Chair asked for introductions in Chicago. Conference line was unable to be connected due to technical difficulties.

II. Welcome from Principal Janice Jackson

Chairman welcomed Principal Jackson and provided a brief biography for her. Janice Jackson joined Westinghouse as principal in 2009 following her time as principal at Al Raby High School. Principal Jackson is a graduate of Chicago State University and the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC). She holds a Master's of History as well as a Master's of Leadership and Administration as well as a Doctorate of Education in Policy Studies and Urban School Leadership from UIC.

The Chair welcomed Westinghouse Principal Janice Jackson to tell the Council more about the important work taking place on the campus to expand college and career readiness opportunities including the College to Careers Academy. After a rich legacy as Westinghouse Career Academy, Westinghouse College Prep High School re-opened in 2009 and offers students a choice of 2 programs: 1) a competitive College Prep Program 2) a College and Careers Program Westinghouse is one of only 10 selective enrollment high schools in Chicago and serves a diverse student population from nearly 300 different primary schools around the city. For the past five years, it has been a pioneer among Chicago Public School, offering a rigorous curriculum, a range of Advanced Placement options, state of the art facilities, and numerous internships and mentorships made possible through partnerships with business and the local community.

The Chair thanked Principal Jackson for her presentation.

III. Early College Credit and Workforce Readiness Presentation

The Chairman welcomed Jon Furr, Director of the Office of Education System Innovation at the Northern Illinois University, who served as the moderator for the Early College Credit and Workforce Readiness Panel. Jon and his office have worked closely with state government leaders to coordinate the Race to the Top – Early Learning Challenge grant application, the STEM Learning Exchanges, and the Longitudinal Data System Governance Board. He has previously served as General Counsel to the Illinois State Board of Education as well as a partner at a prominent international law firm where he focused on public policy and education practice.

Jon introduced his panelists:

- Rasmus Lynnerup, Vice Chancellor at City Colleges of Chicago
- Alan Mather, Principal at Lindblom Math and Science Academy
- Julie Schaid, Associate Dean of College Readiness & School Partnerships at Elgin Community College

Panelists provided an overview of their work to strengthen postsecondary and workforce readiness for students such as Elgin’s College Readiness Alliance and its My First Lecture program which exposes high school students to college level classes. The City Colleges discussed the work they are engaged in to expand early college credit and career readiness opportunities for students including partnerships to offer dual credit and other forms of early college credit as well as partnerships with the business/employer community to offer hands on job training such as mentorships, internships, or industry based challenges. Chairman thanked moderator and panelists for sharing their efforts as models of successful programs and practices for supporting students’ academic and career goals.

IV. Discussions on Privacy and Security of Student Data – Peter Godard, Chief Performance Officer at IL State Board of Education

Chairman provided an overview of the Council’s discussion around student data at the last Council meeting. Per the Council’s discussion, a resolution in support of continued discussion around this important matter was being developed on behalf of the Council. Peter Godard joined the Council on behalf of the State Board to speak to issues of privacy, security, and use of student data. Godard provided handouts which addressed frequently asked questions and common misunderstandings around current laws and regulations regarding the collection and use of student data.

Peter also noted that Illinois had been awarded an Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) waiver. Chairman invited ISBE to return to the Council to provide a presentation on the provisions of the waiver and their implications for Illinois’ education system. Family, Youth, and Community Engagement Committee indicated its willingness to bring together stakeholders to help facilitate outreach around the impacts of the waiver.

V. Lunch Break

Council broke for lunch.

VI. Committee Updates

a. Data, Assessment, & Accountability Committee (DAA) – Robin Steans

Robin Steans discussed progress on the Committee's Large Scale Student Assessment Study commissioned by the Committee and being organized by Consortium for Educational Change and Illinois State University. She noted that several focus groups with key stakeholders around the state have been held to gather feedback on the purpose and use of statewide student assessments.

The Executive Summary of the proposal for their study was included as a handout in the meeting packet.

b. Teacher & Leader Effectiveness Committee – Erika Hunt and Audrey Soglin

Erika Hunt and Audrey Soglin provided an update on the work of the Diverse Educator Pipeline Working Group which has been in the process of developing a request for proposals (RFP) for the development of an Education Learning Exchange. The Committee continues to work with the IL State Board of Education among others to identify potential sources of funding for promising proposals.

Handouts in packet included Committee's slides as well as a copy of their request and a concept map for the Education Learning Exchange.

c. Implementation Review Committee – Roger Eddy and Jane Russell

Committee co-chairs provided a verbal update on progress towards collecting feedback on the implementation of key education initiatives unfolding in the state. Committee has begun to focus more closely on performance evaluations, new Illinois Learning Standards, and the longitudinal data system. Committee has continued to work closely with the DAA Committee to ensure collaboration around input related to student assessment. Committee has begun to identify specific topics on which they are interested in gathering feedback around implementation. They are also in the process of cross-walking the areas of concern and interest regarding assessments with the topics being addressed by the IL State Board of Education and DAA Committee to ensure that efforts to collect input from stakeholders are thorough and streamlined.

d. Family, Youth, & Community Engagement Committee – Joyce Karon and Deb Strauss

Co-chairs provided a brief verbal update on ongoing outreach efforts in support of the work of the Council and fellow committees. They indicated an interest in submitting a proposal for a workshop at the College Changes Everything conference. They also welcomed the opportunity to convene stakeholders around the ESEA waiver.

e. School, College, & Career Readiness Committee

• Postsecondary and Workforce Readiness Joint Working Group – John Rico & Robin Steans

John Rico provided brief verbal update on ongoing conversation about ways to move forward the work of the Postsecondary and Workforce Readiness Committee. He also indicated that

Representative Chapa LaVia is engaged and interested in being supportive of efforts to codify the framework as needed.

VII. Presentation and Discussion of Annual Report – Lizanne DeStefano, Council Coordinator

Last meeting Amber Kirchhoff reviewed the report outline and incorporated the Council's feedback to ensure that the report addressed all of the important work that has been done by both the Council and state agencies to advance the recommendations of the P-20 Council. This meeting Lizanne DeStefano provided an overview of the content to be included in the fourth annual report as well as the process for providing feedback on the draft. Her slides were included in the packet to allow guests to follow.

VIII. IL Board of Higher Education Public Agenda Mid Point Report – Dr. James Applegate, Executive Director at the IL Board of Higher Education

Dr. James Applegate provided a brief presentation on key findings from the mid-point report for the Public Agenda. An executive summary of these findings was included in the packet and a full set of findings can be found online at 1illinois.org. While Illinois has made great progress in a number of areas, much work remains to be done in many others. Key findings included the fact that Illinois has made strides in increasing the education level of its adult population, especially its young workforce. Illinois' gain has been greater than the nation as a whole. However, relative to leading competitor countries, Illinois is improving at a slower rate. Also, achievement gaps for students of color persist at both the secondary and postsecondary level.

IX. Discussion of Federal Gainful Employment Proposal

Packets included a press release from the US Department of Education regarding a recent White House proposal on enhancing transparency for students and their families when making decisions around the best option for higher education. The federal government is referring to this proposal at the Gainful Employment proposal. The comment period open in mid-March and will remain open for 60 days and close in mid-May. Chairman shared this proposal for discussion on the ideas the President has put forth and to gather any feedback from the Council to share with state agencies and postsecondary institutions.

X. Truancy in CPS Task Force – Melissa Mitchell, Executive Director at IL Federation for Community Schools

P-20 Council Member, Melissa Mitchell, spoke on behalf of the Truancy in CPS Task Force as the Task Force's Co-Chair, Antoinette Taylor, had a conflict and was unable to join. Mitchell and fellow Task Force member, Madelyn James of Voices for Illinois Children, gave an update on the work of the Task Force including a series of public hearings they are organizing around the city as well as plans for their report to be issued this summer.

Handouts referenced were included in packets.

XI. Arts Education – Ra Joy, Executive Director at Arts Alliance Illinois

Ra Joy, Executive Director of Arts Alliance Illinois, joined the Council to speak about an agenda for strengthening education in Illinois through the arts. He noted that Chairman del Valle serves on the Alliance's Arts Education Advisory Committee as a representative of the P-20 Council. Maria Capoccia, Senior Advisor, Strategic Initiatives joined him as well as members of the Arts Alliance Board, Michael Hernandez (Arts Education Committee Co-chair) and Christopher Grodoski.

Joy's presentation was included in the packet. He spoke about the effectiveness of arts education in reengaging students and providing a creative outlet which leads to a positive impact on academic achievement and positive student behavior.

Chairman del Valle thanked the Alliance for its outstanding advocacy and welcomed the opportunity to partner moving forward.

XII. State Agency Updates

State agencies provided brief updates on key initiatives related to the work of the Council. Eric Zarnikow of the IL Student Assistance Commission (ISAC) noted that the fourth annual College Changes Everything conference would take place on July 17 in Tinley Park and invited Council members and guests to attend. Lavon Nelson shared an update on behalf of the IL Community College Board (ICCB) regarding workforce development programs. Jim Applegate, Executive Director of the IL Board of Higher Education (IBHE) spoke about their partnership with Complete College America around STEM Guided Pathways to Success (STEM GPS) which is piloting a set of high impact strategies geared towards enhancing retention and completion for STEM majors. George Letavish shared updates from the IL Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO).

XIII. 3:30pm Announcements & Other Business

The Chair noted that the date of the October P-20 Council will be changed due to a conflict. The new date will be shared at the next Council meeting.

XIV. 4:00pm Closing & Adjourn

The Chairman thanked Council members and guests for their participation. He also thanked Westinghouse and Principal Jackson for their support in organizing the meeting and for generously hosting the Council and its guests.

Lastly, the Chair noted that the next P-20 Council meeting is Wednesday, July 23 at a location to be determined. The meeting was adjourned.